

Castle Bromwich Rural District.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S OFFICE,

14, TEMPLE STREET, BIRMINGHAM,

February 3rd, 1896.

TO THE CASTLE BROMWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you my report on the health of the above District for the year 1895.

The District consists of the following Parishes and Hamlets :—Castle Bromwich, Water Orton, Curdworth, Minworth, and Wishaw.

AREA.

The area of the whole District is 7,724 acres, made up as follows :—Castle Bromwich, 2,701 ; Water Orton, 623 ; Curdworth, 1,620 ; Minworth, 1,550 ; and Wishaw, 1,230.

POPULATION.

The Census of 1891 showed the population to be 2,293, while in the middle of 1895 I estimate it to have been 2,469. I have been favoured by the Aston School Board with a copy of their annual enumeration of inhabited houses in those portions of the District comprised in Castle Bromwich and Water Orton, so that I have no doubt the estimate of population is fairly accurate in these Districts ; while in Curdworth, Minworth, and Wishaw there has, I believe, been but little change. I estimate the population of the District to be made up as follows :—Castle Bromwich, 907 ; Water Orton, 610 ; Curdworth, 292 ; Minworth, 480 ; and Wishaw, 180. This gives a density of population of 204 per square mile.

BIRTHS.

Fifty-one births, 24 males and 27 females, have been registered, giving a birth-rate of 20·65. The birth-rates of the sub-divisions were :—Castle Bromwich, 9·92 ; Water Orton, 13·11 ; Curdworth, 34·24 ; Minworth, 31·25 ; and Wishaw, 50·0. The very low birth-rates in the two most populous Divisions is worthy of record.

DEATHS.

There have been 31 deaths, 15 males and 16 females, registered, giving a death-rate of 12·55 per 1,000 per annum. The death-rates of the sub-divisions were :—Castle Bromwich, 9·92 ; Water Orton, 13·11 ; Curdworth, 10·27 ; Minworth, 16·66 ; and Wishaw, 16·66. The death-rate generally is satisfactory.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Eight of the deaths were in children under one year of age, giving a rate per 1,000 registered births of 156. This figure compares unfavourably with that for 1894, which was 92, and indeed is considerably higher than that of the Rural Districts of the County of Warwick. On looking at the causes of death, it will be seen that in every case death resulted from circumstances over which sanitation has no control. For example, two of the deaths were from premature birth, two from marasmus, two from congenital malformation, one from bronchitis, and one from intestinal irritation. It would appear, therefore, that the increased infant mortality was due to causes, social rather than sanitary.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

There were only 3 deaths from Zymotic disease, viz.:—2 from Typhoid Fever, and 1 from Diarrhoea, and of the Typhoid Fever 1 was imported into the district, and, moreover, occurred in a person not belonging thereto. In addition to these there were notified 12 cases of Scarlet Fever; 2 of Diphtheria; 1 of Typhoid Fever; 1 of Continued Fever; 1 of Puerperal Fever; and 3 of Erysipelas; so that during the year only 22 cases were notified, compared with 30 in 1894. The whole of the Scarlet Fever cases occurred at Castle Bromwich in the months of January, March, April, June, July, and August, and were sporadic, and I am pleased to say that no less than 11 of them were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The two cases of Diphtheria occurred respectively at Castle Bromwich and Minworth. The one at Castle Bromwich was slight and was not associated with sanitary defects. The one at Minworth was more severe, and I found that the basement of the house was damp and insufficiently ventilated, while the drainage was defective and an old-fashioned trap was inside the house. Alterations were effected and the deficiencies remedied. Two cases of Typhoid Fever (one fatal) occurred in one house at Minworth, and I could not with certainty determine the cause. The water supply was not very good, but was common to other houses in which no cases occurred, while the drainage, though not altogether satisfactory, showed no serious defects. A case of Puerperal Fever occurred at Castle Bromwich and proved fatal.

The total cost of notification was £2 15s.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been an extension of the Birmingham Corporation mains at Castle Bromwich, so that this supply is now available to the houses recently built in the road near the Castle Inn. I have analysed 4 samples during the year, the results of which will be found in Table D in the appendix.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans of 6 new houses have been approved, and indeed the buildings are now completed, while 9 houses, the plans of which were passed last year, have also been completed. Of these 6 are at Castle Bromwich and 9 at Water Orton. An iron chapel has also been built at Minworth, and a police station is in course of erection at Castle Bromwich.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The long delayed and much required sewerage of Water Orton has received attention. Plans were drawn out by Mr. J. E. Willcox, A.M.I.C.E., and an enquiry was held by Major-General Crozier, on behalf of the Local Government Board, and, as a result, at the end of the year sanction was received to borrow the sum necessitated by the work.

In the summer I received a request from the Trustees of the Castle Bromwich School that I would report to them on what alterations I considered desirable in the sanitary arrangements. In consequence I made a careful inspection, and made suggestions as to improvements in ventilation, cloak-room accommodation, warming, &c. I also pointed out the desirability of a complete re-construction of the external sanitary arrangements and drainage, and the more important part of the work has already been carried out.

VACCINATION.

The table forwarded by the Vaccination Officer shows that this important branch of sanitary work has been efficiently carried out as usual.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The Inspector has, as usual, efficiently carried out the various duties appertaining to his office. He has disinfected all houses where it has been desirable for this to be done in the public interest. He has also inspected the Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, and Cowsheds, and has taken proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and in conclusion I can say that not only has the sanitary condition of the District been maintained, but steps have been taken which, in the immediate future, will tend still further towards material improvement.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

A. BOSTOCK HILL, M.D., D.P.H., Camb.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895 in the CASTLE BROMWICH RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases and Ages, and showing also the Area and Population of such District, and the Births therein during the Year, together with Birth, A. Death, and Zymotic Rates, and the Rate of Infant Mortality.

DISTRICT.	AREA IN ACRES.	Population per Square Mile.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality under 1 year to Registered Births per 1,000.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Re-registered Births.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS IN PERSONS UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
							Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
CASTLE BROMWICH...	2,701	214	9.92	9.92	Nil	111	810	907	9	1	1	1	4	2	Under 5 5 upwds.</

B. *Table of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1895, in the CASTLE BROMWICH Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITALS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
	(a)	(b)	(c)			1	2	3	4	FEVERS.						Cholera.	Erysipelas.	12	13	1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
		Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.							Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Typhus.									Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
CASTLE BROMWICH	...	810	907	9	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	3	9	...	1	1

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes. Since when?—December, 1889. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Aston Manor Joint Hospital in West Bromwich Rural District.

TABLE D.

WATER RESULTS OF ANALYSES

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

No. of Water.	LOCALITY.	Date.	Total Solid Matter.	Ammonia Free.	Ammonia Organic.	Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites.	Chlorine.	REMARKS.
1	Castle Bromwich, nr. Castle Inn	May 30th	74	0·016	0·020	2·53	2·6	New Well
2	Castle Bromwich, The Green ...	"	80	0·001	0·014	3·52	4·7	Diphtheria occurred here.
3	Minworth, nr. Hare & Hounds Inn	June 26th	160	0	0·014	0·22	3·4	Typhoid occurred here.
4	Castle Bromwich, nr. School	Aug. 24th	74	0·004	0·016	3·85	5·5	Complaint made to Inspector.

TABLE E.

Proceedings taken under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1875-9. Description of samples taken for Analysis during the year.

No.	Date.	Article.	REMARKS.
1	March 15th	Coffee	Genuine.
2	"	Tea	Genuine.
3	"	Cocoa	Genuine.
4	Dec. 29th	Coffee	Genuine.
5	"	Pepper	Genuine.
6	"	Oatmeal	Genuine.
7	"	Tea	Genuine.
8	"	Butter	Genuine
9	"	Coffee	Adulterated with 15 % of Chicory. Cautioned by Committee.
10	"	Butter	Genuine.
11	"	Tea	Genuine.
12	"	Oatmeal	Genuine.

CASTLE BROMWICH RURAL DISTRICT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

F.

Return, showing the number of Births Registered, together with the number of such cases successfully Vaccinated or otherwise disposed of in the above District during the year ending 31st December, 1895.

VACCINATION DISTRICTS.	No. of Births Registered during the year ending 31st December, 1895.	No. of these cases successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Died before Vaccination.	Cases under Postponement.	Removals to other Districts out of the Union.	No. of cases not to be found.	No. of cases remaining Unvaccinated at date of this Return.
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]
Castle Bromwich ...	9	6	..	1	1	...	...	1
Water Orton ...	10	7	...	...	1	...	...	2
Curdworth ...	12	6	...	1	...	...	...	5
Minworth ...	15	10	...	3	...	...	...	2
Wishaw ...	5	4	...	...	1	...	..	...
Totals ...	51	33	...	5	3	...	...	10

NOTE.—As the Public Vaccination for Curdworth and Minworth is performed half-yearly, six of the cases in Column 9 had not attained the age for Vaccination at the time appointed in October last. (One case at Water Orton and the one at Castle Bromwich were also under the legal age for Vaccination at the date of this Return.)

J. J. STEPHENS,

ASTON UNION OFFICES, VAUXHALL,
29th January, 1896.

Vaccination Officer for Aston Union.